

groups as well as vigilante border patrol groups, who conduct armed patrols along the borders of the United States. Several border vigilantes have been arrested on weapons charges. Casey Nethercott, for example, associated with border vigilante groups such as Ranch Rescue and the Arizona Guard, is currently serving a five-year prison term on weapons charges stemming from a 2003 incident in which he and others confronted and assaulted two Salvadorans when on "patrol."

The vigilante border patrol groups have operated for several years but have expanded greatly in the past twelve months, spurred on by the media attention given to the so-called "Minuteman Project." In April 2005, Chris Simcox, who founded the Arizona-based Civil Homeland Defense, a border vigilante group, and Jim Gilchrist, based in California, joined forces to create the Minuteman Project, whose purpose was to gather thousands of volunteers for a month-long watch for illegal border crossers in Arizona. The project, which was highly publicized among right-wing extremists and white supremacists, attracted far fewer volunteers, many of them armed, during its first week. However, the publicity generated by the event resulted in numerous Minuteman chapters and spinoffs forming across America, even in states such as New York, Virginia, Vermont, and Illinois. These groups use the same radical rhetoric: that the United States is being "invaded" by Mexicans who must be stopped.

That message was clear at a three-day summit, "Unite to Fight Against Illegal Immigration," held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in May 2005. More than 400 anti-immigration activists gathered at the event to hear speakers describe illegal immigrants as "the enemy within" and "illegal barbarians," while suggesting that America was "at war" with illegal immigrants and urging people to "take America back."

Many of these anti-immigrant extremists have switched their focus from the border to day laborer centers, where they photograph Hispanics whom they assume are illegal aliens. This racial profiling has also occurred at fast food restaurants and other businesses where Hispanics are employed across the United States. White supremacist and anti-government groups continue to express interest and take part in these activities, and their rhetoric has become more and more confrontational.

INTERNET VIDEO GAMES TARGET HISPANICS

Extremists have shown a renewed interest in populating the Internet with links to video games that target

Hispanics, portraying them not as productive contributors to society, but as objects of scorn, derision and hate. Shoot-to-kill video games such as "Border Patrol," a game created in Flash that is easily accessible on the Internet through extremist Web sites, have become increasingly popular among those opposed to immigration and are widely shared among extremists in the United States. This has especially been the case as the national discussion over immigration has gathered force.

In "Border Patrol"—one of the more popular Flash games available on the Internet through various extremist Web sites—the object is to "kill" caricatures of Mexicans as they attempt to cross the border and gain entry to the U.S.

Players control a gun and are charged with killing stereotypical Mexicans. Targets include a "Mexican nationalist," who carries a Mexican flag and a pistol; a "Drug smuggler," wearing a sombrero and carrying a bag of marijuana on his back; and finally a "Breeder"—a pregnant woman who has two small children in tow. Aside from the

virulently anti-Hispanic themes within the game, it also hints at anti-Semitic myths such as "Jewish control" of the U.S. through an image where the border is represented by a bullet-ridden sign showing an American flag whose 50 stars have been replaced by a single Jewish Star of David.

Under this sign, another small sign directs the Mexicans to a "Welfare Office." The player "wins" when he or she has made 88 kills. The number 88 has significance to neo-Nazis, who use it as shorthand for "Heil Hitler" ("H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet).

"Border Patrol" was first created in 2002 by the now-defunct website "Zine 14," and was soon being copied and distributed by extremists and others. In March 2003, the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations group and Christian Identity preacher James Wickstrom both linked to copies of this game from the front pages of their Web sites. In recent months, the game has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity, largely due to neo-Nazis trying to capitalize on the national immigration debate. Neo-Nazi leader Tom Metzger posted the game on his Web site, and other extremists have linked to it and promoted it on fringe online discussion groups.

Games, music and cartoons are some of the methods extremist groups rely on as part of their efforts to reach a younger audience and to expose them to their hateful ideas and beliefs. Cartoon-like Flash games are seen as ideal for this task, because they are small and easy to create and share over the Internet, or enclose in an email message. In recent years, extremist groups such as the neo-Nazi National Alliance have also created more sophisticated video games, such as "Ethnic Cleansing," a game available on CD-ROM that also engages in the stereotyping and demonizing of Hispanics. Their aim is to attract unsuspecting users to extremist Web sites, where they can be exposed to the message and goals of the hate groups.

Such games are tools that extremists increasingly use to desensitize people against acts of violence, to portray hate crimes as something to be celebrated, to dehumanize America's Hispanic population and to draw attention to their cause using the new technologies available to them on the Internet.

IT IS TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, when we debated the original Iraq war resolution, the administration told us that Iraq was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction, that there were ties between Saddam Hussein and 9/11, and that Iraq was within a year of having a nuclear capability.

Fast-forward to the deliberations of the 9/11 Commission. They concluded that there were no weapons of mass destruction, no ties between Saddam Hussein and 9/11, and no nuclear capability. Mr. Speaker, these votes weren't 8-4 or 7-5, they were all 12-0 that the very basis for the war did not exist.

When I go back home, Mr. Speaker, and my constituents ask me to summarize where we are in the war on terror, I tell them this: As we approach the fifth anniversary of the worst terrorist

attack in the history of our country, we have committed hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraq. More important than that, over 20,000 young Americans have either been killed or seriously wounded going after Saddam Hussein, who did not attack us, while Osama bin Laden, who did attack us, is still alive, free, planning another attack on our country. That, Mr. Speaker, is the very definition of failure in the war on terror. We went after the wrong guy.

But after the invasion, did we have a responsibility to help the Iraqi people build a new government and a new way of life? The answer to that question is yes. And we have fulfilled that obligation. We have helped them through not one, not two, but three elections. It is now time for the Iraqi people to stand up and defend themselves.

There is a general rule of military engagement that says that you do not signal to your enemy what you are going to do in advance. But there are exceptions to every rule, and there are two exceptions to this rule. Number one is that the insurgents in Iraq are using as a recruitment tool the argument that we have no intention of leaving their country and that we are going to steal their oil. And it is working! It is fueling the insurgency.

As for our friends in Iraq, those who want this new government and new way of life, they seem perfectly content to let our soldiers take all of the enemy fire. The problem with security in Iraq is not the system of training, it is the fact that the Iraqis are not stepping forward to defend their own government.

So today, Mr. Speaker, my basic disagreement with the President is this: He says that we should stay in Iraq until the Iraqis declare that they are ready to defend their own country; and I propose that we announce a timetable for withdrawal, start withdrawing our troops, and make our position very clear to the Iraqis: If they want this new government and this new way of life, they have to come forward, volunteer, stand up, and defend it. Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring our troops home.

HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2½ minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House on an important issue that has already been addressed by my colleague Mr. BACA, and that is the power of words. And that is all we really have here in this chamber, and that is to address one another in a respectful manner and engage in a good faith debate about the merits or demerits of any particular issue.

Unfortunately, words can be harmful and they can incite and be counter-productive, and to be a disservice not just to this institution but to the

American people who are waiting for a good faith debate on the important issue of immigration.

However, this debate has been framed in a certain manner, to appeal probably to that rather unattractive underbelly that is out there in society, and that is bigotry and racism. And that is a true danger. And when I say it is a disservice to this country, it is beyond a disservice. It is going back in time.

A recent article that appeared this Sunday regarding this debate pointed out as follows, and this is so important that it cannot be adequately emphasized:

Most Americans who are in favor of stricter border enforcement are not bigots. Far from it. But some politicians and other public figures see an opportunity to foment hate and hysteria for their own profit. They are embracing a nativism and xenophobia that recall the 1920s when a State Department warning about an influx about filthy and unassimilable Jews from Eastern Europe led to the first immigration quotas, or the 1950s heyday of Operation Wetback when illegal Mexican workers were hunted down and deported.

We are a better Nation than we were in the 1920s, we are a better Nation than we were in the 1950s, but only if we respect what this institution is all about, and that is a good faith based debate on the facts and the figures, and not to appeal to an emotional part of the human spirit that is not to be admired or promoted.

At this time I yield to my colleague, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, from the great State of California.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my esteemed colleague, JOE BACA, for taking the lead on this very important issue, and to the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, for yielding to me.

I also find it very disturbing that extremists are using the immigration debate to stir up racial division and hatred. Whether it is in the form of violent anti-immigrant video games, in hate speeches, in racial slurs, in graffiti, in our schools, or in political debate, it is wrong.

I am here to ask you to ask our countrymen to say enough is enough. It is not a moral nor a decent way to treat or speak about our fellow human beings. Along with many of my colleagues, I implore individuals, families, and communities all over the country to stand up against this hatred.

THE BERLIN WALL AND THE WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of the House to an anniversary that should not pass without reflection. My colleagues, 19

years ago, President Reagan stood in a divided Berlin at the Brandenburg Gate and challenged Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall." Today, as our brave men and women in the Armed Forces fight the global war on terror, we should remember the determination of President Reagan as he spoke those words in a divided city and the inspiration he brought to the people of Berlin and to the world.

Asked how he felt about the wall, President Reagan called it, quote, an ugly scar on the face of Berlin, a city of culture and history which was celebrating its 750th anniversary when Reagan visited it.

Today we recognize that the ideology of terror is an ugly scar on the face of Islam, and in our struggle against it we should bear in mind the lessons of the Cold War, a struggle that bears a deep resemblance and relevance to the global war on terror we wage today. Like the Cold War and the global war on terror, we face an ideology rather than a hostile state. Like communism, the creed of terror is expansionist, uncompromising, and poses a threat to freedom loving people everywhere.

In waging war against such an ideology, victory cannot be found on a single battlefield. The Cold War stretched from Asia to Africa to the very heart of Europe, just as our struggle today reaches from the Philippines to the mountains of Afghanistan to, as we recently saw, our neighbor Canada. Terrorism will strike wherever freedom reigns, from London to Madrid, to a quiet field in Pennsylvania.

The Cold War proved to be a generational conflict, spanning decades, and the global war on terror may prove an equally daunting task. But as in the Cold War, the fanaticism of our foes leaves no room for negotiation or compromise. The global war on terror is a fight we must win. The stakes are far too high to fail.

At the time of his speech in Berlin, the Soviet news agency called President Reagan's words openly provocative and warmongering, while some sources in the American news media were no kinder. When President Reagan called the Soviet Union an evil empire, many criticized him for his black and white point of view.

These criticisms sound familiar today, but the verdict of history is in. Within a decade of President Reagan's provocative speech, the Cold War ended with freedom's triumph.

Today, each news report of a bombing in which Iraqi women and children are slaughtered is a glimpse of a new evil empire of terror, reminding us that evil is alive in the world and must be opposed, the words of Edmund Burke ring true: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

I am proud to say that, as a Nation, we are meeting that challenge, not leaving evil unopposed. Last week we won a major victory with the death of the terrorist mastermind Abu Musab

al-Zarqawi. Our Armed Forces and intelligence services deserve congratulations for their fine work, along with the first responders, border agents, and other heroes at home who stand ever vigilant hoping their services will never be called into need.

My colleagues, in a generational struggle like the one we face, we should remember that we are the strongest when we stand together. Fortunately, we do not stand alone. We stand with allies from across the world, including many who have come face to face with terror. As President Reagan addressed his remarks in Brandenburg to the people of Eastern Europe, let us remember that those living under oppression or fear of terrorism will be heartened by the determination we show in this fight.

During his visit to Berlin 19 years ago, President Reagan was struck by the words of a young Berliner who had spray painted on the wall that divided the city: "This wall will fall. Beliefs become reality."

America has always been a beacon of hope, a living example of the transformative power of freedom. As the people of Berlin took up sledgehammers against the infamous wall and broke Communist's grip on the city, Americans know that as freedom and democracies take root in the new Iraq, when we see ink-stained fingers raised in defiance of threats, the people of the Middle East and the world will demolish terror with their ballots, and freedom will again triumph.

HATE CRIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank Congressman BACA for bringing us together to acknowledge that hateful speech generates hateful acts. And I hope that we will have an opportunity as we discuss the immigration pathway for so many who are claiming America's dream that we will bring the tone down. Let me applaud the community of Houston where I come from where we are establishing weekly meetings called Houston's Unity Effort on Immigration.

Let me tell how immigration and hateful talk can generate ugly acts. The sodomizing of a teenager by Anglo youth, white youth, a Hispanic youth when the piquing comments about immigration were rising to the worst that we could hear. That young man now lays in a hospital bed recuperating, and I have asked for an Attorney General investigation as to the violation of his civil rights. Or, as been said, a video game that gives the highest points to a dead Mexican pregnant woman coming over the border. That is a lack of understanding and sensitivity. And just recently in Round Rock, Texas where a